

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant : Wendy D. Stout  
Application No. : 10/697,753 Confirmation No. : 8784  
Filed : October 29, 2003  
For : UNIVERSAL PUZZLE PIECE WITH CUSTOMIZABLE  
SURFACE  
Group Art Unit : 3714  
Examiner : David W. Duffy

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450 New York, New York 10036  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 June 1, 2007

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement and required that an election be made from the groups identified below. A five-month extension of time is applicable hereto and is being submitted herewith.

Group I. Claims 1-33, drawn to a modular display system, classified in class 40, subclass 605.

Group II. Claims 48-64, drawn to an online drawing program, classified in class 345, subclass 428.

Group III. Claims 38-40, drawn to a sticker, classified in class D19, subclass 1.

Group IV. Claims 41 and 42, drawn to a knock out piece, classified in class 206, subclass 527.

Group V. Claims 34-37, drawn to a notepad, classified in class D19, subclass 1.

Group VI. Claims 42-47, drawn to a trading card, classified in class 283, subclass 75.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-33) for examination.

The Examiner required election of a species of Group I from the following groups:

- A. a modular display system for marking upon,
- B. a modular electronic display,
- C. a virtual modular display system,
- D. a sticker, or
- E. a bundling packaging method.

Applicant elects, with traverse, Species E for examination.

Applicant traverses the Examiner's restriction/election requirement at least because the Examiner has identified a species for Group I that corresponds to the inventions of other groups. Species E, for example, is a species of Group I, but also corresponds to the invention of Group V.

Particularly, for example, the features of a customizable puzzle piece may be included in applicant's invention of a pad (e.g., the Examiner's "bundling packaging method"). For example, a pad itself, and each of the removable pages of the pad, can "interlock" (Office Action, page 2) with the other pages/covers as each, if properly configured, may be considered a puzzle piece. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention, for example, to at least FIG. 4. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner examine both Group I and Group V.

For at least the above reasons, at least claims 1-7, 13-18, 22-23, and 25-33 and 34-37 read on Species E. Additionally, at least claim 1 is at least generic to all of the species. All of the claims in the identified species depend from claim 1. Applicant reserves the right to supplement and expand this traversal.

Applicants election should not be utilized to limit the scope of any claim in any way, shape, or form. Applicants election was merely made in order to assist the Examiner in conducting a search that the Examiner considers reasonable. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of any claim (e.g., non-elected claims) in any number of divisional or continuation applications.

Applicant has elected Group I and Species E for examination. Applicant notes that should claim 1 be allowed, then all of the claims that depend from claim 1, and associated species, should also be allowed. Similarly, withdrawn claims that depend from claim 1 should be reinstated and allowed.

A five-month extension of time is applicable hereto. The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the five-month extension of time of \$1080.00, and any additional fees required in connection with this Restriction Requirement, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this letter is transmitted herewith.

An early and favorable action is respectfully  
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffrey D. Mullen/  
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